

REMARKS

Claims 8-12, 15, 18-25 are currently pending. Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18-25 have been added. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's willingness to conduct a telephone interview on this 27th day of June, 1996, on such short notice.

Claims 8 and 14-17 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103 as being met by Tuch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,564) in view of Tymes (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,183). Claim 10 is objected to based on a lack of antecedent basis relating to the language "said IDLE SENSE messages." Claim 10 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion to overcome this problem. Claims 9-13 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As discussed in the interview, Applicants have amended claim 8 (along with many of the dependent claims based thereon) to clarify the scope of the present invention regarding the terms "personal local area network." New independent claim 19, which is similarly directed, also points out the use of such a personal network in an overall communication network. The present invention is directed to a personal local area network which can be "carried by a single user for capturing and processing data." Instead of providing a single, portable device providing all such functions (which might prove to bulky to be useful as a hand-held device), Applicants have taught to subdivide such functionality into at least three portable units, "first, second and third portable data devices."

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Wired links attached or hanging from a user creates tripping and entanglement hazards. Instead of hardwiring the three portable data devices together, the Applicants teach to use wireless links. However, Applicants do not teach the requirement of having to place high powered radios in each portable data device to communicate with a higher powered network (e.g., via a "stationary, remote transceiver"). Instead, Applicants teach that power savings can be achieved by placing very low power transceivers in many of the portable data devices. This proves particularly effective in data collection environments wherein not all data devices need to communicate directly to the stationary, remote transceiver, if at all. Other data devices benefit from such a low power design by enhancing battery savings and reducing transceiver complexity, size and weight. Moreover, as the number of wireless portable devices increases (beyond two), the Applicant teaches that at least one of the portable devices should manage communication among the wireless devices, not only to optimize data flow, but also to increase battery power savings.

Thus, the wireless, personal local area network provides identified in independent claims 8 and 19 and the claims which depend therefrom offer a solution to at least the many aforementioned problems. Neither Tymes nor Tuch et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest such claim limitations. Nor do they even identify the nature of the problems solved.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the Examiner will agree that the claims are now in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowability is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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